



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
San Antonio Fire Department – Fire Prevention Division
MEMORANDUM



TO: San Antonio Fire Department Associates

FROM: Earl Crayton, II – Assistant Chief – SAFD, Fire Marshal

DATE: March 23, 2010

FILE: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2010-007

TITLE: Fire Department Communications Systems

CODE EDITION: 2006 International Fire Code (IFC) and 2009 International Fire Code (IFC), each as adopted and amended by the City of San Antonio (COSA)

SECTION: 2006 IFC 907.2.12.3 and Chapter 47 (COSA Amendments)
2009 IFC 907.2.13.2 and 510 (COSA Amendments)

PURPOSE: To provide clarification as to whether two-way fire-fighter phone communication systems are required in high-rise structures.

QUESTION 1: The 2006 IFC Section 907.2.12.3 requires an approved two-way, fire department communication system designed and installed in accordance with NFPA 72 shall be provided for fire department use in high-rise structures except where fire department radio systems are provided and approved by the fire department. Section 4701.1 of the COSA Amendments further requires all buildings to support adequate radio coverage for COSA public safety services, including but not limited to police, fire and public works departments. When applying these sections, is it the intent that both the adequate radio coverage and two-way communications systems be required in high-rise buildings?


ANSWER 1: No. Only adequate radio coverage is required per Section 4701.1 and the exception to Section 907.2.12.3.

QUESTION 2: The 2009 IFC Section 907.2.13.2 states “Where a wired communication system is approved in lieu of a radio coverage system in accordance with Section 510, the wired fire department communication system shall be designed and installed in accordance with NFPA 72 shall be provided for fire department use.” Is it the intent that the installation of a wired fire department communication

system be allowed as an exception to the radio coverage requirements of Section 510 of the COSA Amendments?

ANSWER 2:

No. Pursuant to Section 510.4, when a building or structure fails to support adequate radio coverage, a plan acceptable to the San Antonio Fire Department addressing the inadequate radio coverage is required to be submitted within ninety (90) days. The submitted plan will be subject to review and final approval. However, each plan will be reviewed by SAFD on a case by case basis and may or may not include a wired fire department communication system as part of the approved plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Earl Crayton, II", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Earl Crayton, II
Assistant Chief - San Antonio Fire Department
Fire Marshal